



ST. MARTIN'S
PRESS

For the Love of the Grind

A Memoir

Sara Hall

"A MUST READ FOR EVERYONE." —Meb Keflezighi • "A BEAUTIFUL REFLECTION ON WHAT IT MEANS TO KEEP SHOWING UP." —Allyson Felix • "LEFT ME ON THE SIDELINES CHEERING." —Joan Benoit Samuelson

Summary

Sara Hall has been a fixture atop American distance running for more than two decades: first as a national high school champion, then as an NCAA star at Stanford University, and later, as the only pro runner to ever win U.S. titles in the mile and the marathon. She's held the American record in the half marathon, clocked the fastest marathon in the U.S. by a woman aged 40 or older, and represented her country in multiple World Championships.

But success has never come easy. Fear of failure set in during high school. In college, Sara competed through a results-obsessed culture that carried into her professional career. She battled anxiety and imposter syndrome, alongside outside pressure to quit the sport and instead devote herself to supporting her husband, Olympic marathoner Ryan Hall, and later, her kids. Yet Sara never gave up on the dream of reaching her potential.

Fueled by faith, family, and an unbridled love of exploring her limits, Sara has proven the doubters wrong at every turn. When she and Ryan adopted four daughters from Ethiopia, motherhood only made her faster, running personal bests year after year and landing on podiums at the world's most competitive races. Along the way, she discovered that choosing love over fear allowed her to take risks. *For the Love of the Grind* is a love letter to running, and the story of Sara's growth as an athlete, wife, and mom.

Contributor Bio

Sara Hall is a professional runner, wife to American marathoner Ryan Hall, and mom of four daughters adopted from Ethiopia. She has been competing professionally for over twenty years and been nationally ranked for almost three decades. She lives in Flagstaff, Arizona with her family.

Quotes

"*For The Love Of The Grind* is not only funny and relatable, but you will walk through Sara's journey like you are running stride by stride with her." —**Meb Keflezighi, Boston and NYC Marathon Champion, Olympic Silver medalist**

"Sara's story reveals the heart of a champion and the strength of a mother. I've always admired her as an athlete, but this memoir shows the depth of her grit, grace, and unwavering faith." —**Allyson Felix, 7x Olympic Gold medalist**

FOR THE LOVE
OF THE GRIND

a memoir

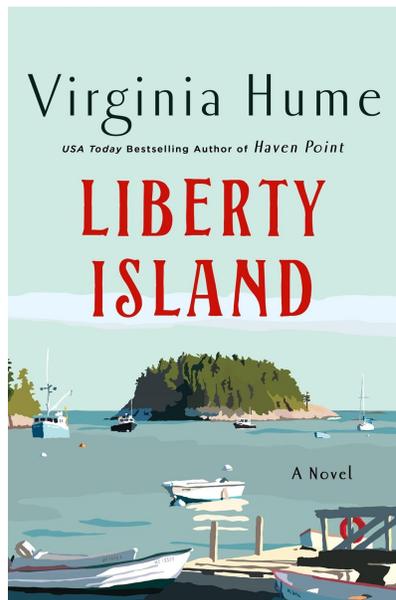
SARA HALL



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Liberty Island

A Novel

Virginia Hume

From the bestselling author of *Haven Point* comes a sweeping, multi-generational tale of women defining freedom on their own terms.

Summary

1900: Twenty-eight-year-old Anna Bradley is spending the summer on a rugged island off the coast of Haven Point, Maine, supervising her niece, Julia Demarest, and two other spirited girls. As the children race through the woods playing pirates, treasure hunters, and Roughriders, Anna—an ambitious college graduate determined to chart her own path—finds unexpected inspiration.

She secretly pens *Liberty Island*, a bold, imaginative novel celebrating girls unbound by the expectations of marriage and motherhood. The book becomes a runaway hit with young readers, but draws scorn from the social elite, who see it as dangerous and unbecoming. As the book's popularity grows and Anna's carefully kept secret teeters on the edge of exposure, she must also navigate a burgeoning romance—and reconsider everything she thought she wanted for her future.

1922: Julia Demarest, now twenty-nine, was once enchanted by her aunt's bestselling books. But times have changed—and so has she. Disillusioned by the restrictions of her privileged upbringing and disenchanted by a failed romance with a bohemian intellectual, Julia finds herself adrift and estranged from her family. When a sudden call brings her back to Haven Point, she must reckon with the ghosts of her past, the ideals she once dismissed, and what freedom truly means to her.

Rich with heart and history, *Liberty Island* is an unforgettable story of love, legacy, and belonging.

Contributor Bio

VIRGINIA HUME is the author of *Haven Point*. Her early career was spent in public affairs and political communications. She lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland with her family.

Quotes

"Thrilling . . . With vivid characters, Virginia Hume reminds us that the true work of transformation is to ask what truly matters and to listen, with courage, for the answer."
—**Patti Callahan Henry, bestselling author of *The Story She Left Behind***

"With poignant twists of plot and lovingly crafted characters, this is an immersive read that will have you rooting for the strong women who drive this story." —**Allison Pataki, bestselling author of *Finding Margaret Fuller***

"A vivid and emotionally true story, set in a beautiful part of the world, that will stay with me for years to come." —**Dana Perino, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *And The Good News Is...***



Tiger v. Jack

Golf's Great Debate

Bob Harig

SI golf writer and author of *Tiger & Phil*, Bob Harig's *Tiger v. Jack*, an examination of two of the greatest golfers of all time, including the intangibles that made them both icons.

Summary

When Jack Nicklaus stunningly won the 1986 Masters for his 18th major championship victory, it was a reminder of the greatness of a golfer who had done so much. The major title – six years after his last – brought into focus again the dominance of his career. At the time, nobody was close to him in major wins, and the idea of anyone getting within miles of Nicklaus' major record, let alone match or overtake him, seemed, frankly, preposterous.

And yet, there was a kid who was just 10 years old when Nicklaus won that last major. Tiger Woods was already thinking about Jack. He would put his accomplishments on a wall by age and try to beat those feats. Eventually, he put Nicklaus' 18 major titles in his sights, and for the better part of a decade was on pace to match or exceed the record, a remarkable thought itself. The fact that he came up short doesn't diminish the chase.

In *Tiger v. Jack*, Bob Harig explores and compares the two legends in a lively examination of the greatest argument in golf—who was better, Jack Nicklaus or Tiger Woods—exploring the records, rivalries, statistics, and context of their illustrious careers, including the intangibles that made them both icons. They both had their moments of brilliance and dominance. What we've seen from Nicklaus and Woods is likely to never be duplicated, all the more reason to celebrate it.

Contributor Bio

SI.com golf writer **BOB HARIG**, a longtime writer for ESPN and the *Tampa Bay Times*, has covered Tiger and Phil since the very beginning of each of their careers and has had dozens of one-on-one interviews with each of them. He holds degrees in journalism and history from Indiana University and is an active member of the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA). He lives in Florida.

Quotes

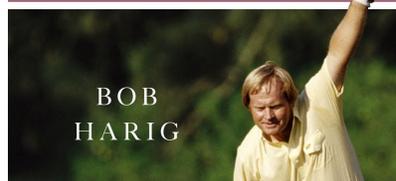
Praise for *Bob Harig*:

"From the very beginning, Bob Harig has been there to honestly document the ups and downs of the most consequential career in the game's history. It's all here in these pages, and it is breathtaking." – Jimmy Roberts, commentator, NBC/Golf Channel; author of *No One Wins Alone* with Mark Messier

"Every golf enthusiast will want to dive into this." —Jim Nantz, CBS-TV

This is the ultimate insider's look." —Ian O'Connor, three-time *New York Times* bestselling author of *Arnie & Jack*

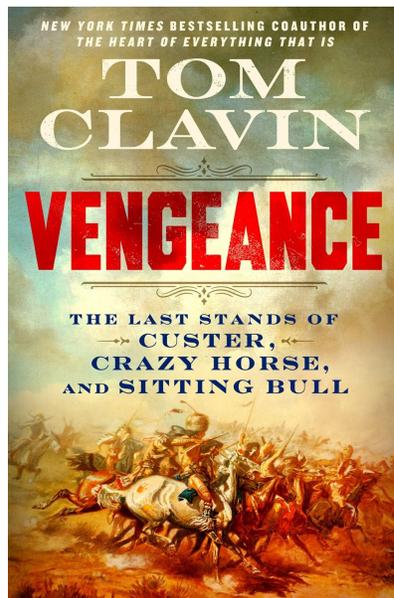
"Insider portraits tailor-made for golf enthusiasts. " — *Kirkus*



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Vengeance

The Last Stands of Custer, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull

Tom Clavin

A dramatic new look at Custer's Last Stand in time for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn by the #1 *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of *The Heart of Everything That Is*.

Summary

On June 25–27, 1876, the Battle of the Little Bighorn, commonly referred to as Custer's Last Stand, was fought between combined forces of the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes and the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. Along the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory, the battle resulted in the devastating defeat of U.S. forces and was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876.

Now, for the 150th anniversary of this famous engagement, #1 *New York Times* bestseller coauthor of the biography of Sioux warrior Red Cloud, *The Heart of Everything That Is*, Tom Clavin takes a fresh look at Custer's Last Stand.

This dramatic look at the Little Bighorn battle has to not only include the Native American point of view?with two dynamic Native figures, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, on prominent display?but also the impact it had on the Plains Indians. It turned out to be their last stand too because a vengeful nation quashed any remaining resistance, with a conclusive massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890, almost simultaneous with the murder of Sitting Bull.

In addition, Custer's character by June 1876 is at the heart of this world-famous disaster. For all his celebrated bravery, especially at Gettysburg 13 years earlier, Custer became a devout media hound, desperate to gain fame. Even, some say, his own demise was a misguided attempt at grabbing national headlines: He envisioned a massacre – just not his own. As both the camera and the tabloid came of age, George Armstrong Custer became America's first bona fide celebrity.

Vengeance is a thrilling read, filled with action, legendary characters, and poignance for the impact this had on Native Americans and the shape of the American West.

Contributor Bio

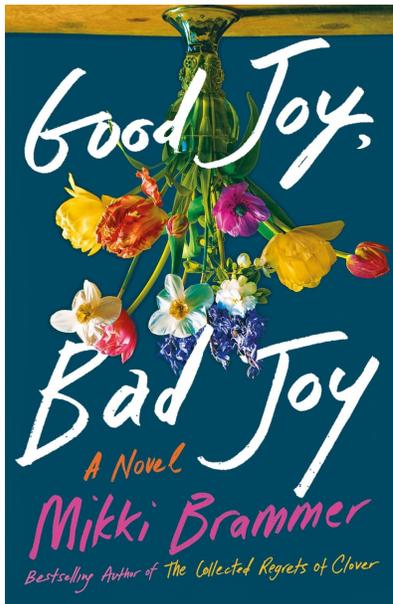
TOM CLAVIN is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and has worked as a newspaper editor, magazine writer, TV and radio commentator, and a reporter for *The New York Times*. He has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and National Newspaper Association. His books include the bestselling Frontier Lawmen trilogy? *Wild Bill*, *Dodge City*, and *Tombstone*?and *Blood and Treasure*, *The Last Hill*, and *Throne of Grace* with Bob Drury. He lives in Sag Harbor, NY.

Quotes

Praise for *Bandit Heaven*:

"Rather than provide shades of gray, Clavin ? a best-selling author of World War II and Wild West histories ? renders the good, the bad and the ugly." ?*The New York Times*

"The entire cowboy-outlaw era, which reached its climax in 1897 and ended around 1905, comes vividly alive in this kaleidoscopic work ... countless other instances of robbing, stealing and retribution, are woven splendidly into this rousing saga of the closing years of the outlaw epoch of the American West." ?*Wall Street Journal*



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Good Joy, Bad Joy

A Novel

Mikki Brammer

From the bestselling author of *The Collected Regrets of Clover* comes a vibrant, heartfelt novel about friendship over the decades, self-discovery, and what it means to have a life well-lived.

Summary

For over eighty years, Joy Bridport has played by the rules: she's been a devoted wife and mother, contributing to the community in her small Hudson Valley town. But her quiet existence is jolted when she learns that her best friend, Hazel, only has months left to live. Hazel has always been the more adventurous one of their duo, and she seems at peace with all that she's squeezed out of her long life. Yet Joy realizes she can't say the same.

Determined to live boldly and make the most of the time that she and Hazel have left together, Joy steps outside of her comfort zone—and into a bit of trouble. But as her foray into rule-breaking escalates into committing petty crime, Joy must consider what kind of legacy she wants to leave behind, and whether there's a way for her to embrace the liberation that "Bad Joy" offers without losing all that she holds dear.

Is it ever too late to become who we're meant to be? With laugh-out-loud hijinks and emotional heft, *Good Joy, Bad Joy* is a heartwarming and wise celebration of the choices we make, the friendships we cherish, and the lengths we go for love.

Contributor Bio

MIKKI BRAMMER is an Australian journalist based in New York City, by way of France and Spain. She is the bestselling author of *The Collected Regrets of Clover* and writes about design, architecture and art for publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *Dwell* and *ELLE Decor*.

Quotes

"With compassion and insight, *Good Joy, Bad Joy* shines a light on the quiet invisibility that settles over women as they age, then sweeps it aside with humor and heart. This deeply human novel captures the beauty of lifelong friendship and the gentle, inspiring truth that we are never finished becoming ourselves." —**Anna Johnston, author of *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife***

"This is a beautiful and moving story about friendship and second chances late in life. Uplifting, charming, and wonderful, it will make you call your oldest friend to say 'I love you, I'm so glad you're alive, and also, please read this book.'" —**Annie Hartnett, author of *The Road to Tender Hearts***

"Once again, Mikki delivers a beautiful story, one that balances the complexity of grief with moments of levity and warmth in the deft, unmistakable style she is becoming known for. *Good Joy, Bad Joy* is not only a multilayered love letter to the wonder and resilience of female friendship, but also a tender reminder that at any stage of life, even at 89, it is never too late to bloom, to forge new connections, and to rediscover joy." —**Jessica George, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maame***

"*Good Joy, Bad Joy* is a book that everyone should read. A beautifully reflective story of lifelong friendship, legacy, and what it truly means to lead a "god" life. I adored the colorful cast of characters, and watching Joy come of age—to her nineties! This was a deep, life affirming and entertaining experience full of hijinks, tender insights, and a reminder that it's never too late to redefine your life." —**Natalie Sue, author of *I Hope This Finds You Well***

"*Good Joy, Bad Joy* is a love letter to friendship and relishing what life has to offer.

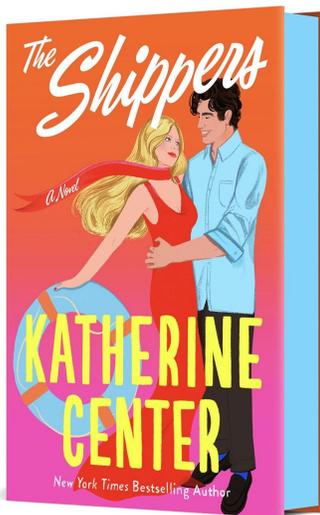
Joy's best friend may be facing the end, but it inspires Joy to embrace her final years and open up to new experiences. Mikki Brammer has created a character you will want to introduce to your friends. Pick up a copy and seize the joy." —**Pamela Klinger-Horn, Valley Bookseller**

Praise for *The Collected Regrets of Clover*

"This weird, lovely and sweetly satisfying novel [is] engaging and accessible..." —**The New York Times Book Review**

"While this heartwarming debut novel deals with death, it never becomes maudlin, instead focusing on what makes a life worth living. Readers who appreciate seeing quirky, isolated characters come into their own will find much to love in this moving novel." —**Booklist**

"A comforting exploration of grief, love and human connection that is sure to feel like a warm hug." —**BookPage**



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The Shippers

A Novel

Katherine Center

One of the hottest, fastest-rising Rom Com stars delivers her latest swoon-worthy novel set on a cruise ship with passion, hijinks, umbrella drinks, and long-lost love.

Summary

When Josephine Clark faints at the altar at the moment she's about to get married, the wedding is naturally called off. JoJo comes to the stark realization that she is making a huge mistake and this decision is backed up by the sudden appearance of her estranged childhood friend, Cooper Watts.

Cooper had been boycotting her wedding, but now he rescues her from the disapproving eyes of everyone at the venue. But she and Cooper haven't spoken in years and he's been living a life away in London. JoJo has been hurt by his mysterious disappearance, but now, he is her savior, much as he always was during the years of their childhood. But there is no time for Jo to lick her wounds over her abandoned wedding: her own sister is planning a destination wedding--on a cruise ship no less--and the entire old neighborhood is invited, including Cooper.

Her sister is determined to find a romantic match for Jo, on this ship-full of eligible (and not so eligible) men. But is the man she has her eyes on really the one she should be with? And what mysteries is Cooper hiding, to explain his four year absence? Has true love been in front of her this whole time? Or will stormy seas and misunderstandings capsize her chance at happiness? No one does summer romance quite like Katherine Center and THE SHIPPERS will set readers on a course for true love and delicious escape.

Contributor Bio

KATHERINE CENTER is the New York Times bestselling author of several novels, including *The Bodyguard* and *The Rom-Commers*. Katherine writes laugh-and-cry books about how life knocks us down—and how we get back up. The movie adaptation of Katherine's novel *The Lost Husband* hit #1 on Netflix, and *Happiness for Beginners* is a Netflix original movie starring Ellie Kemper. Katherine lives in her hometown of Houston, Texas, with her husband, two kids, and their fluffy-but-fierce dog.

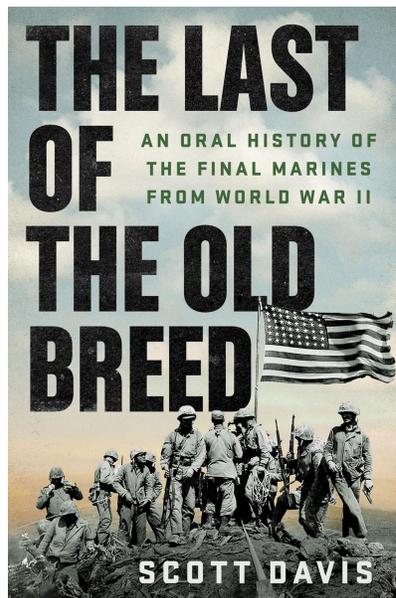
Quotes

Praise for *The Love Haters*:

"Katherine Center's latest romance is madcap, laugh-out-loud, and adrenaline-packed—but with a tender center: the reminder that our first love story always needs to be with ourselves." —Jodi Picoult, #1 NYT bestselling author

"Center's latest is a charming romp full of all the elements readers have come to expect from her: endearingly guarded characters thrust into a situation that opens up their worlds in the best way." —Booklist

"Striking a perfect balance of comedic moments and emotional authenticity, this may be Center's best yet." —Publishers Weekly



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The Last of the Old Breed

An Oral History of the Final Marines from World War II

Scott Davis

An oral history of the brutal Pacific Theater in WWII, told by many of the last living U.S. Marine veterans.

Summary

During World War II, over 16 million Americans served in the Armed Forces. Today, less than 1 percent are still alive. *The Last of the Old Breed* is an unprecedented oral history of the final living United States Marines from World War II, featuring over 130 veterans, ranging in age from 90 to 103. Told in harrowing detail, the witnesses reveal the brutal reality of combat against a fanatical enemy and the heavy toll it took on their post-war lives.

From retirement facilities, veteran's hospitals, and modest homes across the country, the last witnesses opened up about the war like never before, determined to leave an honest account for future generations. For many of the veterans, this was the first – and final – time telling their stories.

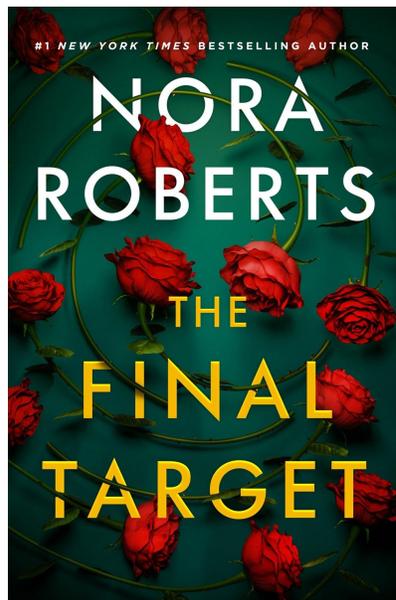
The Last of the Old Breed is a rare, unvarnished look at the Pacific War, in the words of those who were there. These are the stories that could not be told – until now.

Contributor Bio

Scott Davis is a historian and journalist based out of Spokane, Washington with a degree in history from Gonzaga University. He runs a popular YouTube channel on the Vietnam War, *The Vietnam Experience*, which has amassed over 200,000 subscribers and over 100 million lifetime views. His writing has appeared in *Naval History*, *Army Magazine*, and many other publications. Over the last decade, he has interviewed over 500 veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Quotes

"War books are often sanitized and sterilized to make them more palatable. *The Last of the Old Breed* is not. Captured through hundreds of hours of face-to-face interviews with the last surviving Marines of the brutal Pacific Campaign of World War Two, Scott Davis delivers a visceral, blunt, and unvarnished, portrayal of this horrific and heroic history—a history of savagery and sacrifice that we must never forget." —Jocko Willink, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and podcaster



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The Final Target

Nora Roberts

A young author becomes the object of a fan's desire—and rage—in the gripping new thriller by the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Hidden Nature*.

Summary

He showed up at Arden Bowie's debut author appearance with a copy of her novel and an eager smile. He showered her with compliments and got her autograph. Then he came to her next event. And the one after that.

Dustin was just an aspiring writer who wanted advice, Arden reassured herself. But after giving in to one of his incessant invitations and chatting with him over coffee, she discovered that ignoring her inner alarm bell had been a terrible mistake...

An introvert at heart, Arden had long craved solitude—but now, after a harrowing assault, she finds herself hiding behind locked doors and startling at every sound. And her relief at his imprisonment is tempered by anxiety when Dustin's wealthy mother helps to get him a paltry five-year sentence at a psychiatric facility.

Arden decides to write a new story for herself, moving to a tiny Oregon town and befriending Gideon, an ex-LAPD detective. But while she learns to thrive, Dustin remains his delusional, twisted self, as fixated as ever and now seething with anger. He still believes Arden's purpose on earth is to serve and please him. And his job is to protect her. But who will protect her from him?

Contributor Bio

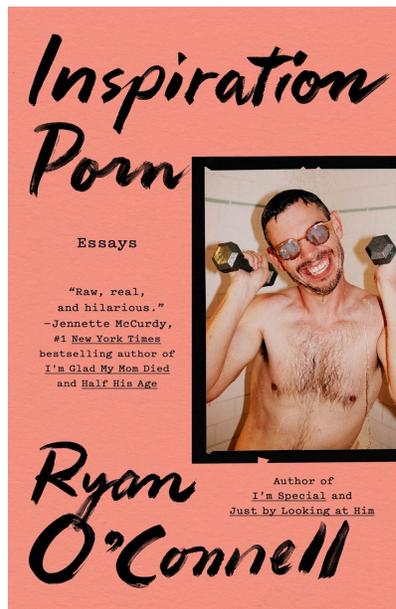
NORA ROBERTS is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 250 novels, including *Inheritance*, *The Mirror*, *The Seven Rings*, *Mind Games*, *Identity*, *The Chronicles of The One* trilogy, *The Dragon Heart Legacy Trilogy*, and many more. She is also the author of the bestselling *In Death* series written under the pen name J. D. Robb. There are more than 500 million copies of her books in print.

Quotes

Praise for *Hidden Nature*

"For Roberts's fans, this delivers the goods." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Roberts continues to serve up maximum reading pleasure with another nerve-wracking novel of suspense." —*Booklist*



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Inspiration Porn

Essays

Ryan O'Connell

Hilarious and bawdy musings on disability, sex, family, and Hollywood, from Emmy-winning writer and creator of the Netflix series *Special*.

Summary

For years, Ryan O'Connell wished he was different. Raised in a small Southern California beach town described as "Laguna Beach with meth," his dad had taken off for greener pastures, and his alcoholic mom packed him lunches that wouldn't win any *Top Chef: Quickfire* challenges. On top of it, he had to be disabled *and* gay?! Luckily, Ryan always had a love for writing. There, he could "construct the narrative of my life before anyone can construct it for me." In essays that range from the poignant to the side-splitting, Ryan takes us along as he grapples with addiction, navigates the early days of writing for online media in NYC, and uses his voice to gain entrance into the cutthroat world of Hollywood, where he becomes a sought-after writer and creator. In other essays he asks the very important question: "Are Straight People Okay?" (short answer is no), explores the battle between your IRL vs URL identity, and ruminates on the healing power of being gay and on vacation. Finally, Ryan opens up his committed relationship and becomes a slut for the first time, keeping a diary of his sexual misadventures, and bravely healing his soul through his hole.

In the tradition of writers like Samantha Irby and David Sedaris, *INSPIRATION PORN* is a candid and often raunchy look at a life lived without apologies.

Contributor Bio

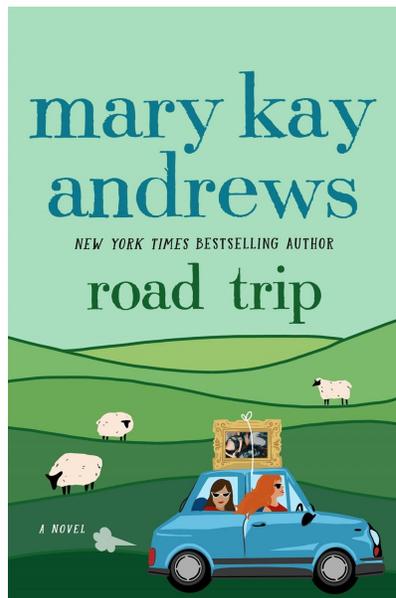
Ryan O'Connell is the Emmy-winning creator, writer, and star of Netflix's *Special*, which is based on his memoir, *I'm Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves*. He's also written for other TV shows, including *Will & Grace*, *Awkward*, and Peacock's *Queer as Folk* revival, which he also stars in. He lives in Los Angeles with his partner, Jonathan Parks-Ramage.

Quotes

"I've loved Ryan O'Connell's voice in every iteration." —**Lena Dunham**, creator of HBO's *Girls* and #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Not That Kind of Girl*

"O'Connell knows how to tell a story....Like the best personal essayists, [O'Connell] possesses the rare talent of making the most obscure personal event relatable to any reader, and he writes like he talks."—**Vice**

"A special and hilarious star in a sea of same-y Millennial memoirists."— **Diablo Cody**, screenwriter



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Road Trip

A Novel

Mary Kay Andrews

Pack your bag for a summer read filled with mystery, romance, intrigue, travel, cozy pubs, and hot men with accents.

Summary

Maeve and Therese Dunigan are sisters, but the two have been estranged for years. They could not be more opposite: Maeve is the rule-follower and Therese is the rebel. But when their mother's death brings the family back together, the two find that they have inherited a painting, one that could be worth millions and could save each of them from the wolves at their door. The only issue is whether it's real or a fake, and the only way they can prove that theirs is the real McCoy is to solve the mystery of how this portrait of an Anglo-Irish aristocrat made its way to their childhood home in Savannah, GA. This means a road trip to Ireland, to their family roots, and to a mysterious crime that occurred generations ago. With tensions simmering, the two hit the road and find themselves on twisty lanes, in colorful villages, at local pubs, and with handsome men whose gift of the gab is surpassed only by their charm. Can Maeve and Therese actually survive the journey without killing each other? Join Mary Kay Andrews on a road trip that will entertain you for miles.

Contributor Bio

MARY KAY ANDREWS is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *Summers at the Saint*, *The Homewreckers*, *The Newcomer*, *Hello, Summer*, *Sunset Beach*. *The High Tide Club*, *The Beach House Cookbook*, *The Weekenders*, *Beach Town*, *Save the Date*, *Ladies' Night*, *Christmas Bliss*, *Spring Fever*, *Summer Rental*, *The Fixer Upper*, *Deep Dish*, *Blue Christmas*, *Savannah Breeze*, *Hissy Fit*, *Little Bitty Lies*, and *Savannah Blues*. A former journalist for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Quotes

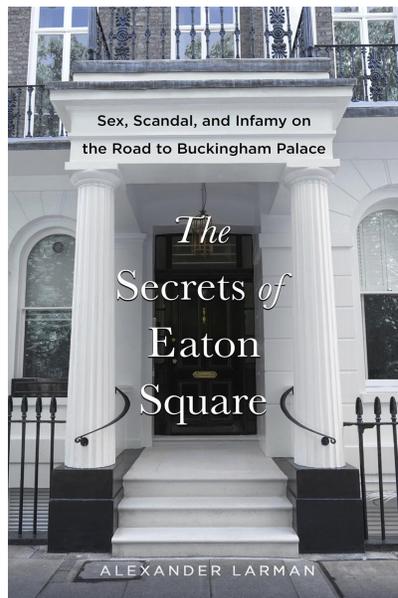
Praise for Mary Kay Andrews:

"[A] mesmerizing mix of mystery and romance . . . Series fans and newcomers alike will be riveted." —Publishers Weekly, starred review

"Mary Kay Andrews is the queen of beach reads." —CountryLiving.com

"Oh, just bring us the beach chair and fancy umbrella drink now. We're in." —CNN.com

"Mary Kay Andrews is having her moment." —Today Show



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The Secrets of Eaton Square

Sex, Scandal, and Infamy on the Road to Buckingham Palace

Alexander Larman

Windsor biographer Alexander Larman takes you behind the doors of Eaton Square, London's most sought-after address.

Summary

In the classic PBS series *Upstairs, Downstairs*, the aristocratic Bellamy family lived at the fictitious 165 Eaton Place, a grand home in one of London's most beautiful garden squares just minutes from Buckingham Palace. But, what really goes on behind the beautiful, polished doors of one of London's most sought-after addresses?

In *The Secrets of Eaton Square: Sex, Scandal and Infamy on the Road to Buckingham Palace*, Alexander Larman opens those doors wide to the scandalous social and political history of Eaton Square that begins in the eighteenth century and runs right up until today. With a cast of characters that includes everyone from Neville Chamberlain, Joachim von Ribbentrop (the lover of Wallis Simpson), Diana Mitford, Vivien Leigh, Margaret Thatcher, and even James Bond, Larman's book brings Eaton Square alive.

The list of luminaries and the powerful who lived on the square goes on and on today, from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Saatchi to today's parade of Russian oligarchs whose money has given the area a new moniker: "Red Square." No matter what it is called, Eaton Square remains an iconic byword for moneyed luxury and glamorous discretion that, at times, is the playground of off-duty royals. Let Alexander Larman unlock the doors of Eaton Square for you. He has all the keys...

Contributor Bio

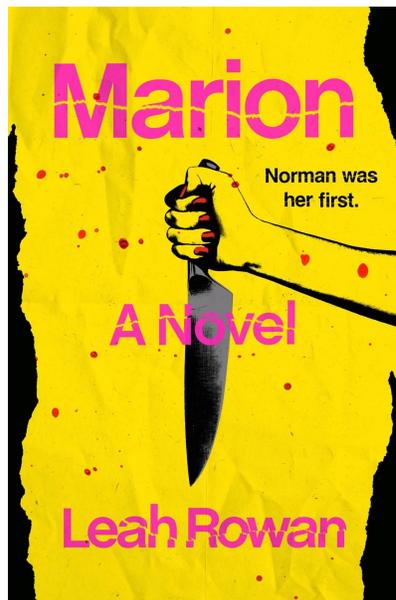
ALEXANDER LARMAN is a British historian and journalist. He is the author of several acclaimed books of historical and literary biography, including *Power and Glory*, *The Windsors at War*, *The Crown in Crisis*, *Byron's Women* and *Blazing Star*. He is the books editor of *Spectator World* magazine, and writes regularly for the *Observer*, *Telegraph* and *The Spectator*. He lives in Oxford

Quotes

Praise for *Power and Glory*:

"Larman offers many delicious behind-the-scenes details...that makes the narrative crackle. A fitting conclusion to a memorable history." - *Kirkus Reviews*

"Larman makes all this [royal] history accessible even to those unfamiliar with palace protocols and hierarchies, cementing this as a must-read for royal watchers and Anglophiles of all sorts." - *Booklist (starred review)*



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Marion

A Novel

Leah Rowan

A twist on Hitchcock's *Psycho*—where the leading lady doesn't die, but instead turns the knife on Norm, kicking off a crime spree that turns the silver screen victim into a heroine for our times.

Summary

Marion is in deep. She's stolen money from the Manhattan ad agency where she works in a desperate bid to help her sister escape an abusive marriage, but the bus breaks down before she can make it to Saratoga Springs. It's late at night, and the only place with vacancies is an old set of cabins on the outskirts of town. She pays for a room in cash, and ends up chatting with Norm, the young innkeeper who's handsome, charming and a touch hung-up on his elderly mother. Back in her room, she steps into the shower, scrubbing off the late-summer heat, when the curtain is pulled back...

Norm Billings is there with a knife. He raises his arm to strike, but before he does, Marion knees him in the balls, grabs the knife, and stabs the life out of him. Now, she's covered in blood, and she's a woman on the run—not just a thief, but a killer, too. Where will she go? How will she save both herself and her sister? And what mysteries will she uncover as she does?

In *Psycho*, Hitchcock shocked audiences when he killed off his protagonist. But what if the leading lady had fought back? *Marion* offers an alternate history of the most famous dead blonde to ever grace the silver screen. Only this time, the knife is in her hands—and she's no victim.

Contributor Bio

LEAH ROWAN is an author living in Brooklyn and the Catskills. *Marion* is her forthcoming thriller.

Quotes

"What if Marion Crane hadn't died in the shower? In this chilling reimagining of *Psycho*, Leah Rowan asks what happens when survival hardens into something darker. Both homage and reinvention, *Marion* delivers spine-tingling echoes of Hitchcock while charting a bold, bloody new path for a heroine transformed into a predator. A fierce story of raw female strength. Hitchcock would be proud." —**Stephanie Wrobel, USA Today bestselling author of *The Hitchcock Hotel***

"Clear your schedule, because once you start reading this wildly original Hitchcock retelling, you won't be able to stop. Tense, thrilling, and packed with twists, *Marion* is a brilliantly constructed thrill ride from a bold new voice in horror. Every time you think you've got it figured out, buckle up—Rowan is five steps ahead, and you won't believe what she's got in store." —**Andrea Bartz, New York Times bestselling author of *We Were Never Here***

"Within minutes of reading *Marion*, I knew it was going to be one of my books of the year. In this powerful novel inspired by *Psycho*, *Marion* challenges, questions and subverts every female victim stereotype we've either consciously or subconsciously absorbed in the thriller genre and left me thinking long after I turned the last page. Rowan hooks the reader from the very first sentence with a narrative voice that compels and captivates at every turn. Whip-smart, surprising and perfectly plotted with pacing that left me spinning, I can't recommend it enough. A brilliant novel that begs to be discussed." —**Sarah Pearse, New York Times bestselling author of *The Sanatorium***

"Compulsively readable and clever as hell, this contemporary twist on *Psycho* has genuine scares and surprises. A sharp, fresh, wickedly fun reimagining. Rowan expertly

builds tension while flipping the script on a classic. *Marion* is the ultimate horror/thriller." —**Rachel Harrison, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Play Nice***

"Disturbing, fierce, and unputdownable, *Marion* is a brilliant, feminist twist on one of the most well-known thrillers of our time. An intense, spine-tingling tale." —**Julia Bartz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Writing Retreat***

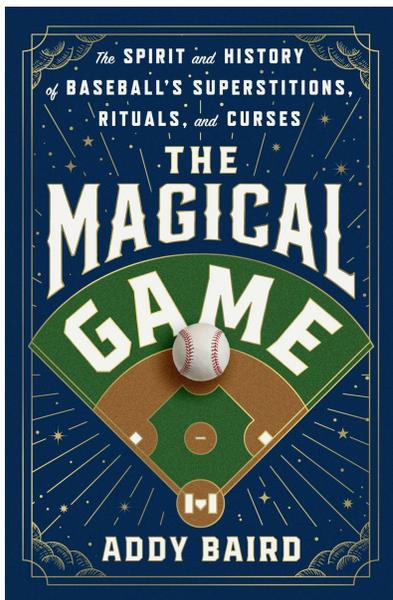
"A bloody tale of female rage, an ode to the bonds of sisterhood in all its forms, and one of the smartest retellings I've had the pleasure to read, *Marion* is the funhouse mirror version of *Psycho* I never knew I always needed. To take a story so ingrained in our Horror DNA and find new angles and deeper truths, to not just re-tell but truly reinvent, is a skill even Hitchcock would have to envy. And on top of all of that, it's just a Damn Fun Read! Leah Rowan is absolutely one to watch." —**Rachel Hawkins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Villa***

"A deliciously twisted retelling of *Psycho* by a masterful writer, and the rare book where plot, character and prose are equally gorgeous. This cathartic, feminist horror is for anyone who's ever watched Hitchcock and wondered about the inner rage of one of those famous 'icy blondes.'" —**Danielle Valentine, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Delicate Condition***

"*Marion* proves that the most famous dead blonde in the world can take back her narrative and her power. Don't miss this page-turning and fantastically feminist reimagining of an iconic Hitchcock character, a novel full of twists, heart, and most of all, justice." —**Vanessa Lillie, bestselling author of *Blood Sisters***

"The *Psycho* retelling of my dark feminist dreams, *Marion* crackles with wry humor, savage action, and an electric tension that will keep it at the forefront of your mind, even when you aren't reading. In this tautly-written thriller, Rowan delivers a powerful sendup of a Hitchcock classic, putting his famous blondes behind the wheels (and the knives), rather than on the floor. What an incredibly entertaining and deeply satisfying tour de force." —**Ashley Winstead, *USA Today* bestselling author of *This Book Will Bury Me***

"Leah Rowan artfully constructs a juicy, cunning joyride of a thriller—it's clever, twisty, beautifully executed, and great fun to read. From the smart pacing to the complex characters, readers will not soon forget *Marion*. I loved this banger of a book, and could not put it down." —**Sophie Stava, author of *Count My Lies***



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The Magical Game

The Spirit and History of Baseball's Superstitions, Rituals, and Curses

Addy Baird

Addy Baird's *The Magical Game* is the story of baseball's rich, magical history and the centuries-old culture of superstition in the sport. It is a love letter to the jinxes, curses, rituals and myths of baseball's past and present.

Summary

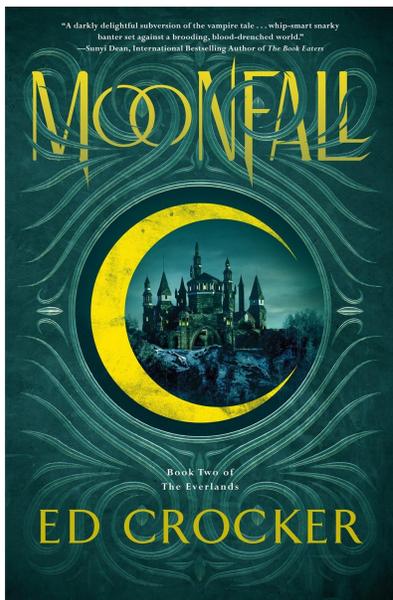
For more than 150 years, a magical culture has been central to the game of baseball: At the turn of the 20th century, a battle between two lucky mascots defined early World Series matchups. Soon after, two generational curses spawned decades of heartbreaking losses for the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox. Today, players like Bryce Harper perform at-bat rituals, fans refuse to wash the jerseys of their favorite players, and baseball people everywhere refuse to utter the words "no-hitter" before there's been a hit.

In *The Magical Game*, journalist and converted baseball fan Addy Baird turns her reporter's eye to her favorite sport, investigating the roots of these magical practices and telling the story of baseball's long history of superstition, rituals, curses, jinxes, hoodoos, and hexes. Spanning three centuries of baseball history and three dozen more of magical history, Baird takes readers through fascinating, forgotten tidbits in the sport, untangles the game's legends, and considers baseball's uncertain future. In the face of recent MLB rule changes and the rise of advanced statistics, Baird looks at the many decades of concern about baseball's declining popularity and the evolution of the sport, as well as why and how a culture of magic has remained strong at the core of the game for so many years.

Funny, poetic, and deeply researched, *The Magical Game* will make readers fall in love with baseball all over again.

Contributor Bio

ADDY BAIRD is a writer, reporter, and baseball fan. With a background in political investigative journalism, she has written and worked for *BuzzFeed News*, *POLITICO*, *VICE*, *The Daily Beast*, and *The New Republic*, among other outlets. She is a Mets fan, left-handed catcher, and amateur tarot card reader living in Washington D.C.



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Moonfall

Book Two of The Everlands

Ed Crocker

The thrilling sequel to *Lightfall*, set in a world of vampires, werewolves, and sorcerers, for fans of Jay Kristoff's *Empire of the Vampire* and Cassandra Clare's *Swordcatcher*.

Summary

The revolution is here... but in the Everlands, nothing comes easy.

In the last vampire city of First Light, the rebels know the truth about the Grays. But nothing has changed. Sam has a plan to bring the whole rotten city down: a plan of peace, not violence. But in this city, the best laid plans have a way of falling apart, and she'll need the help of the city's ex ruler and former enemy if she's to avoid a bloodbath.

Meanwhile, in the Wolflands, Jacob, Sage, and Raven must seek help from the wolves. But when a murder is committed, the land threatens to descend into war, and unless the culprit is found, they might not escape with their lives. But with a long list of suspects and a long set of claws out for them, the odds don't look good.

And then there's Neuras Sinassion. History's most dangerous sorcerer has decided it's finally time to tell his secrets and the truth about the humans. But the truth will come at a price.

When the dust has settled and the bodies are counted, only one thing is certain—the Everlands will never be the same again.

Contributor Bio

ED CROCKER is a Manchester-based freelance editor whose clients include *Sunday Times* bestselling authors and award-winning indie authors. He also writes book reviews and interviews authors for various SFF & horror publications. He is the author of *Lightfall*, book one in the Everlands series.

Quotes

"A promising layered series starter that offers plenty for fantasy fans and mystery lovers alike."

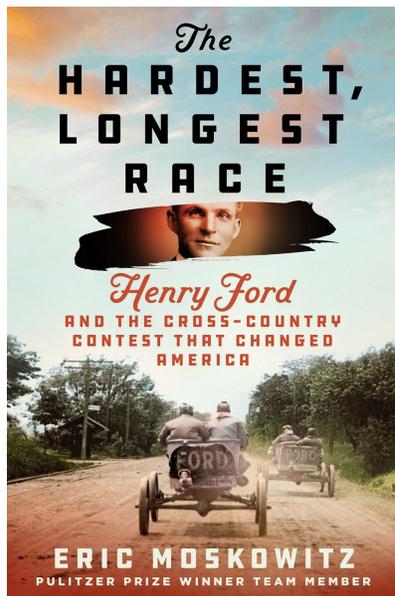
- **Library Journal**

"Witty and surprisingly philosophical, *Lightfall* will have readers eagerly anticipating the second installment."

- **Booklist**

"Read this if you crave tons of whip-smart snarky banter set against a brooding, blood-drenched world."

- **Sunyi Dean, International Bestselling Author of *The Book Eaters***



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The Hardest, Longest Race

Henry Ford and the Cross-Country Contest That Changed America

Eric Moskowitz

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Eric Moskowitz tells the story of the first true coast-to-coast automobile race in the US where drivers braved hostile terrain, mechanical failure, and sabotage.

Summary

In 1909, America was home to 253 automakers, a landscape of visionaries and would-be barons of the new century. But when millionaire M. Robert Guggenheim announced an "Ocean to Ocean" contest from New York City to the Seattle World's Fair, only three companies were brassy enough to show up at the starting line: Acme, Ford, and Shawmut.

Odds makers favored the Acme and Itala, a pricy import also joining the race, while dismissing the pint-sized Ford — a homely little number called the Model T— and the long-shot Shawmut, struggling to survive after a factory fire. Many didn't believe any of the cars would reach Seattle at all, as they would need to forge a 4,106-mile course of mountain ranges, mud bogs, washed-out wagon bridges, and harrowing canyon trails, long before the era of asphalt highways, seatbelts, and service stations.

But Henry Ford was intent on proving that the Model T could beat out the muscular luxury cars---and he didn't plan to leave it to chance. A little over three weeks after the race began, a Ford crossed the line hours ahead of the Shawmut.

Except that victory was a fraud.

The Hardest, Longest Race is a colorful tale of ambition and subterfuge, but it is also a love letter to America at the turn of the 20th Century. As a seeming people's champion—a car for the masses—traverses the vast nation, Moskowitz brings to vivid life the diverse populace and landscape that it would soon transform.

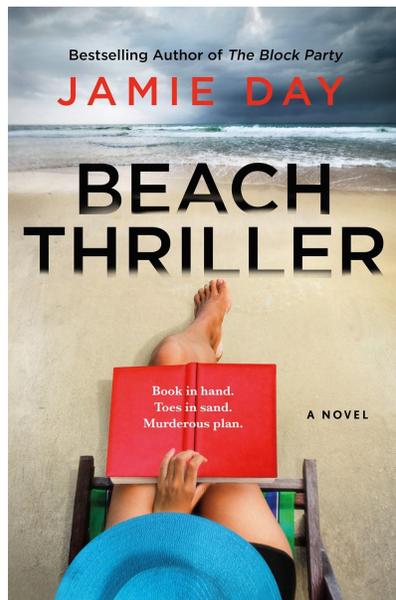
Contributor Bio

ERIC MOSKOWITZ spent 12 years at *The Boston Globe*, where he covered transportation and was part of the team that received the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Boston Marathon bombing. He has written for *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times*, and his work has appeared in *The Best American Sports Writing* and *The Best American Newspaper Narratives* anthologies. He studied American history at the University of Pennsylvania and lives near Boston with his wife and children.

Quotes

"Razor-sharp prose and a narrative that leaps forward from the start... it's pedal-to-the-metal to the chequered finish." —**Neal Bascomb, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Faster* and *The Winter Fortress***

"Brilliant and comprehensively-researched... a worthy homage to a contest that changed the way we travel." —**Dan Shaughnessy, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Francona* and *Wish It Lasted Forever: Life with the Larry Bird Celtics***



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Beach Thriller

A Novel

Jamie Day

The next riveting summer suspense by the author of THE BLOCK PARTY, ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY, and THE LAKE ESCAPE Jamie Day.

Summary

It's been almost twenty years since Holly set foot in Beauport, Massachusetts. A struggling novelist, her slumping sales have led to her eviction from her beloved New York apartment. Now, she must live in the last place she wants to be: her family's long-abandoned beach house.

She arrives on a mission from her literary agent: *write a book that sells*. Reinventing herself won't be easy. But at least she acquires some helpful friends along the way. There's Gail, the property-obsessed realtor who introduces her to a handsome handyman. The local psychic, Serena, is also in her corner, though she warns of impending danger. And then there's Jade, a runaway teen whom Holly finds hiding in the beach house attic. Jade has nowhere to go, so Holly takes her in. Soon after, Jade stumbles upon a job with the influential Carmichael family, a turn of events that no one, not even psychic Serena, saw coming. The Carmichael's town influence has waned over the years, but they'll forever hold a dark connection to Holly's tragic past. Their hidden secrets might also put young Jade in danger.

Despite the friends Holly makes, not everyone is pleased that the prodigal daughter has returned to Beauport. Someone is watching Holly's every move from the shadows. The Watcher sees all and knows what Holly does not. Some secrets must stay buried. And even though the distant past is a faint echo, it's still close enough to be deadly.

Contributor Bio

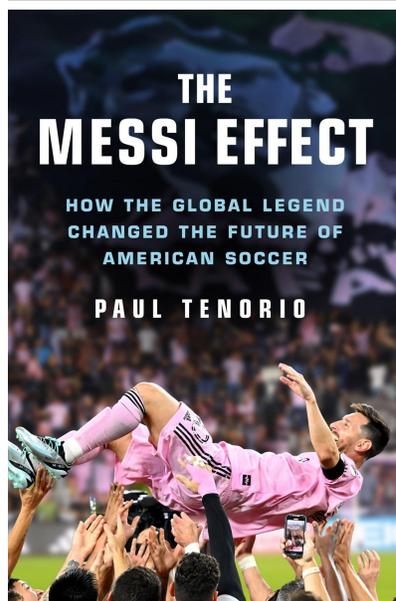
JAMIE DAY lives in one of those picture-perfect, coastal New England towns you see in the movies. And just like the movies, Jamie has two children and an adorable dog to fawn over. When not writing or reading, Jamie enjoys yoga, the ocean, cooking, and long walks on the beach with the dog, or the kids, or sometimes both.

Quotes

Praise for Jamie Day:

"An unputdownable and gripping thriller with nonstop twists and turns!" —Freida McFadden, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Housemaid*

"A master storyteller with wit and style." —William Landay, bestselling author of ALL THAT IS MINE I CARRY WITH ME and DEFENDING JACOB



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The Messi Effect

How the Global Legend Changed the Future of American Soccer

Paul Tenorio

In *The Messi Effect*, Paul Tenorio, national soccer writer for *The Athletic*, draws on coveted insider access to bring readers behind Lionel Messi's inner sanctum and chronicle his last act.

Summary

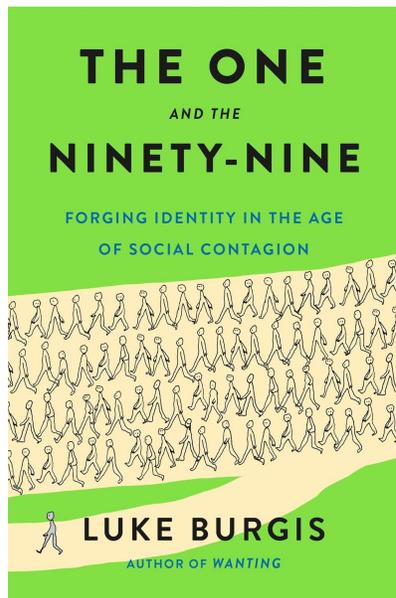
In *The Messi Effect*, Paul Tenorio, national soccer writer for *The Athletic*, who has spent more than a decade breaking news and providing critical insight into the power and politics of the sport, draws on his numerous high-ranking sources inside Inter Miami, American soccer, and overseas to bring readers behind the scenes and chronicle the last act of Lionel Messi.

The Messi Effect takes you inside the locker room as Messi's arrival turned a last-place team into a global phenomenon, and into the Major League Soccer boardroom as league owners debated how to leverage Messi's arrival to shape the future of the league and sport in America. From his cinematic debut goal to his first trophy with Miami and across two more transformative seasons, Messi's impact was immediate and enormous. His pink No. 10 shirt became the world's best-selling jersey, MLS stadiums sold out in city after city, and Inter Miami's valuation soared past \$1 billion.

This is a book about one man's legacy in a rapidly growing and changing game. It's a story about the business of sport and how a player can be both athlete and economic engine. It's an inside look at how the business of MLS evolved historically and in real time after the legend's arrival. And it's the story of how a GOAT rides off into the sunset, the choices he makes, and the aftereffects of his greatness for future generations

Contributor Bio

PAUL TENORIO is a senior writer for *The Athletic* who has covered American and global soccer since 2007. His work has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *FourFourTwo*, and ESPN. A proud Costa Rican American, Paul grew up in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He lives with his wife and two kids in Chicago.



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The One and the Ninety-Nine

Forging Identity in the Age of Social Contagion

Luke Burgis

It's not hard to find your tribe. The real challenge today is not losing yourself within one.

Summary

We are surrounded by tribes: political, professional, online, ideological. Each offer belonging at a price. Join, and you risk dissolving into a ready-made identity. Refuse, and you risk drifting into isolation. Either way, the modern person is pulled toward the same end: forming a fragmented self that is easier to manage, easier to sell to, and easier to recruit.

In *The One and the Ninety-Nine*, bestselling author Luke Burgis argues that the great crisis of our time is not simply polarization or loneliness, but a crisis of formation: it's difficult to form an identity that is solid enough to withstand the pressure of the crowd, and modern institutions don't reward the effort. Drawing from psychology, philosophy, and personal experience, Burgis shows how groups shape our desires, how "social contagion" spreads through families and institutions, and why the hunger to belong can turn ordinary people into instruments of movements they barely understand.

This book is about the missing skill that makes real community possible: learning how to remain oneself while staying connected to others. Burgis offers a practical map for recognizing false belonging, escaping coercive dynamics, and passing through the rites of passage that produce people with integrity and courage.

The One and the Ninety-Nine is a timely and inspiring wake-up call, an invitation to reject counterfeit community and develop depth of personality—to become someone who can stand alone—so that we can finally stand together.

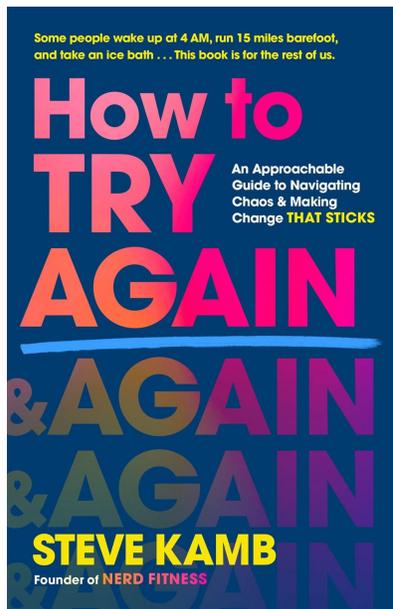
Contributor Bio

Luke Burgis is the director of The Cluny Institute and a professor at The Catholic University of America, where he studies the invisible forces that shape human behavior. He is the author of *Wanting: The Power of Mimetic Desire in Everyday Life*. He lives in Washington, D.C., and Michigan with his wife, Claire, and their children.

Quotes

"The go-to book about the most important phenomenon of our time." —**Tyler Cowen, author of *The Complacent Class***

"In *The One and the Ninety-Nine*, Luke Burgis shows us how to resist the siren call of false identification, which targets us every moment of every day from all of our devices. Joining his own experience to the testimony of the ages, Burgis reveals how we can discover our true selves through a personal response to the call of the good and the beautiful. Only such selves can melt our culture's frozen channels of creation and relationship." —**Michael Clune, author of *Pan***



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How to Try Again

An Approachable Guide to Navigating Chaos and Making Change THAT STICKS

Steve Kamb

Founder of Nerd Fitness Steve Kamb's *How To Try Again*, a guide to help readers transform their lives by giving up more often, failing faster, and mastering the art of starting over.

Summary

Some people wake up at 4AM, run 15 miles barefoot, take an ice bath, drink unicorn tears, meditate for an hour, and then write the great American novel.

How to Try Again is not for those people. It's for the rest of us. In other words, humans.

Humans who are desperate for hope. Unfortunately, they're sold false promises of optimized wellness and unlimited productivity. Predictably, when these life hacks fail the result is personal blame and guilt. Fortunately, breaking free from this madness is Steve Kamb's super power. For the past 16 years, Kamb has helped tens of millions of readers make positive changes through his advice at NerdFitness.com.

You might recognize his name from the pages of James Clear's *Atomic Habits* or the back cover of Mark Manson's *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F****. Which makes sense, as this book comfortably sits at the intersection of those two juggernauts: full of empathetic humor, relatable stories, and practical guidance for making change. *How to Try Again* will help readers forgive themselves faster, fail more enjoyably, restart differently, and finally reach their goals while staying delightfully, infallibly human.

Contributor Bio

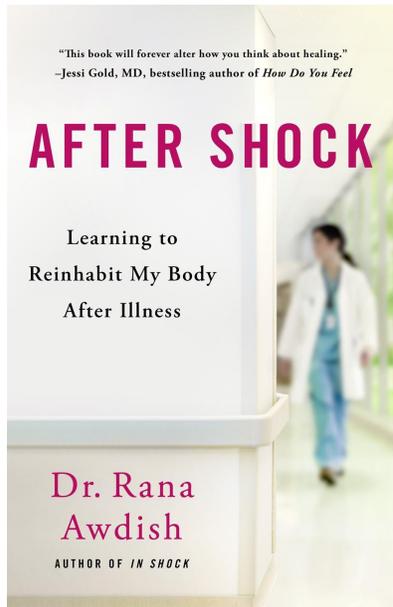
STEVE KAMB is an author and the creator and Chief Connection Officer of NerdFitness.com. Since 2009, he's helped busy people get stronger, live healthier, and build heroic habits, publishing a thousand articles backed by scientific research and full of nerdy references. Nerd Fitness has helped over 15,000 clients level up their lives. Kamb writes a weekly newsletter at SteveKamb.com which is read by 100,000+ super humans. He's guest lectured at Google, Facebook, and Vanderbilt University. He currently resides in Nashville, TN, where he plays golf decently and music poorly.

Quotes

Praise for *Level Up Your Life*

"Kamb's system is commendable for its specificity and practicality and lack of bland platitudes, but he also provides some poignant thoughts on living a meaningful life, namely that "happiness is a consequence of the things you do daily." — *Publisher's Weekly*

"I stayed up all night in Qatar reading this! Steve Kamb is not only a real-life James Bond, he's also written a damn good book." — Chris Guillebeau, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Happiness of Pursuit* and *The \$100 Startup*



After Shock

Learning to Reinhabit My Body After Illness

Rana Awdish

In this powerful follow-up to her bestselling memoir *In Shock*, a doctor asks: *What does it truly mean to heal?*

Summary

In this powerful follow-up to her bestselling memoir, *In Shock*, a doctor asks: What does it truly mean to heal?

In the aftermath of her own critical illness, physician and writer Dr. Rana Awdish finds herself oddly estranged from her own body. Medicine has conditioned her to view sick bodies as broken objects, not as sites of meaning, mystery, and quiet wisdom. So, when her own body warns her that she'll be dead in five years, she's unsure whether to trust it enough to follow where it leads. Allowing for this kind of innate, bodily wisdom would require her to dismantle and reconfigure her entire belief system. She decides to take a leap of faith, abandon certainty and surrender to the message—a choice that ultimately saves her life. What emerges is a profound and vulnerable meditation on the true nature of healing.

Guided by the evocative power of art from Frida Kahlo to Mark Rothko, as well as her own creative process, *After Shock* is part memoir and part guidebook to sustaining wonder and attention to beauty even in the face of grief and loss. Awdish elegantly draws us into a space where our perception shifts and curiosity leads to profound revelation. She invites us to reclaim the power that resides in our attention, relationships and willingness to stay present with suffering long enough for it to transform into something else.

Through her poetic prose and evocative imagery, we learn to see differently, feel deeply, and trust that healing is always possible.

Contributor Bio

Dr. Rana Awdish is the bestselling author of *In Shock*, a landmark medical memoir. She is the Medical Director of Care Experience at Henry Ford Health and pulmonary physician. She was Schwartz Center's National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year and a *U.S. News & World Report Healthcare Hero*. She is recognized as a leading voice on healing, has written for *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *The Washington Post*. She has been featured on *NPR*, *BBC*, and *CNN*.

Quotes

"Urgent and timely." —**Wes Ely, MD, author of *Every Deep-Drawn Breath***

"Awdish's incisive observations and raw candor...will take your breath away." —**Neda Frayha, M.D., F.A.C.P., Editor and host, *The Monthly Rounds* podcast**

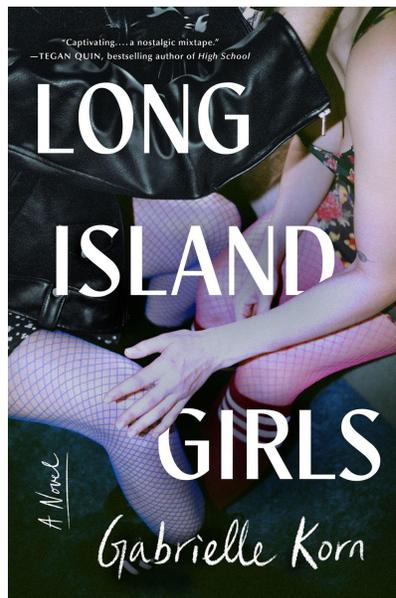
"Will forever alter how you think about healing." —**Jessi Gold MD, MS psychiatrist, author of *How Do You Feel***

"Blesses both medicine and literature with her generous heart and poetic instincts." —**Emily Silverman, MD, Founder, *The Nocturnists*, Assistant Volunteer Clinical Professor of Medicine, UCSF**

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Medical / Critical Care
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Wt



Long Island Girls

A Novel

Gabrielle Korn

An unforgettable novel of young love and queer belonging, set in the indie music world of the early 2000s.

Summary

The only thing Susan loves more than music is Eliza, and both keep breaking her heart.

The first time Susan and Eliza meet, it's 2005, and Susan is barreling down the Long Island Expressway to an indie rock show. Eliza is a surprise addition to the backseat of friends, and she doesn't quite fit in; she's a little too pretty, and she doesn't know anything about music, but Susan is drawn to her anyway. Their sparks lead to combustion when Susan recognizes Eliza as the girl from a nude photo boys have been sending around. They part ways, and Susan assumes that's the end of it. She goes off to college and onto a career in Brooklyn's indie music scene, where she navigates a toxic job at a small record label.

In 2015, in her twenties, Susan has a chance run-in with Eliza on a dating app, and they finally start a relationship. But Eliza is plagued by her traumatic past, which involves people Susan is still involved with, and everything falls apart again. Over the next few years, Susan's career takes off and she meets someone new who might actually be good for her. Yet she can't stop thinking about Eliza. What might have been, had things gone differently?

At once a hilarious-yet-tender coming of age story; a steamy, complicated romance; and an authentic celebration of queer joy, *Long Island Girls* is for anyone who has ever struggled to stop getting caught up in "what-ifs" and start appreciating what is.

Contributor Bio

GABRIELLE KORN is the author of *Yours for the Taking* and *Everybody (Else) Is Perfect*, and the former Editor-in-Chief of *Nylon*. Her writing has been published across the internet since 2011, with bylines in *Literary Hub*, *Instyle*, *Domino*, *Oprah*, *Refinery29* and more. Originally from New York, she now lives in Los Angeles with her wife, and together they run The Pink Door artist and writer residency.

Quotes

"An electric story of first love and the people we can't forget no matter how hard we try. Full of longing, lust, and nostalgia, this is a knock-out!" —Carley Fortune, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Every Summer After* and *One Golden Summer*

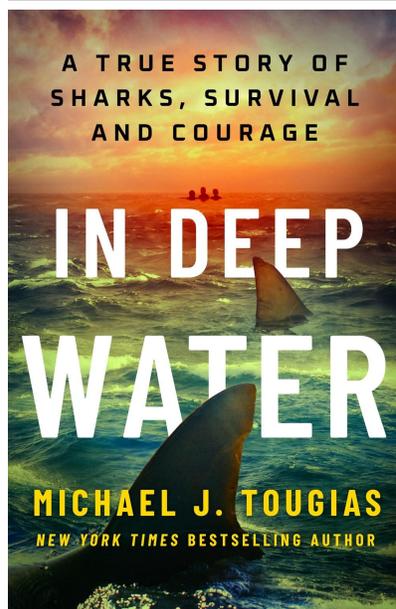
"A captivating, sprawling, queer coming-of-age story—a nostalgic mixtape that begins in the early aughts and ends in post-COVID Los Angeles. I read it in one sitting." —Tegan Quin, bestselling author of *High School*

"A dizzying triumph of queer millennial nostalgia." —Haley Jakobson, *New York Times* Editor's Choice Author of *Old Enough*

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In Deep Water

A True Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage

Michael J. Tougias

The terrifying true story of a fight for survival for 28 hours in shark-infested waters.

Summary

October, 8, 2022.

Three friends are fishing for red snapper when their boat, tied to an oil rig, begins taking on water and sinks 15 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico. Suddenly, the three men find themselves in a struggle for their lives. Their vessel succumbs to the building seas so quickly that the fishermen are unable to send out a radio Mayday call, and their cell phones have no reception. They only have time to don their life jackets and hold onto a cooler as they are swept further out to sea.

They vow to stay together no matter what and must make several life or death decisions. Suffering from hypothermia and severe stings from giant jelly fish, the men desperately try to stay afloat as they realize there are circling sharks below.

In Deep Water is an hour by hour account of a desperate and determined struggle for survival, as well as the Coast Guard's all-out effort to find the missing men. This fast-paced story has a number of surprising turns in both the survival ordeal and the rescue efforts. Based on interviews with the three survivors and the crew of the Jayhawk helicopter who rescue them, *In Deep Water* is a white-knuckle tale of bravery and brotherhood and a battle against the ocean's deadliest predators.

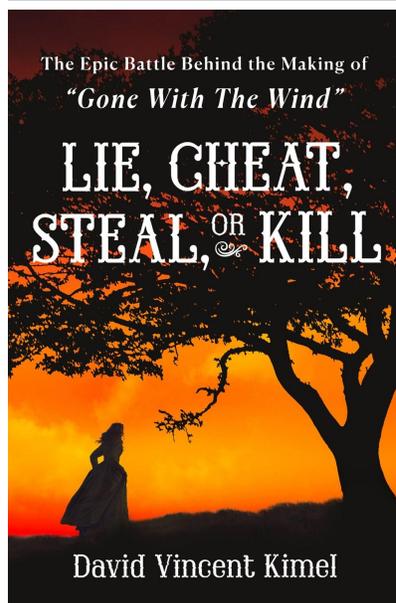
Contributor Bio

MICHAEL J. TOUGIAS is a *New York Times* bestselling author and coauthor of over thirty books for adults and middle readers. His books include *Fatal Forecast*, *The Finest Hours*, *Overboard!*, *A Storm Too Soon*, *So Close to Home*, *The Waters Between Us*, *Extreme Survival*, and *The Power of Positive Fishing*. He offers slide presentations and an inspiration program titled "Survival Lessons: Decision Making Under Pressure."

Quotes

"Tougias delivers a well-researched, vividly written tale of brave men overwhelmed by the awesome forces of nature. An absorbing account..." —*Publishers Weekly* on *Ten Hours Until Dawn*

"Arguably the best story of peril at sea since Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*. [Tougias'] balancing of human and technical detail is nearly perfect. All readers may sincerely hope that Tougias will produce further such superb chronicles." —*Booklist* (starred review) on *Ten Hours Until Dawn*



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Lie, Cheat, Steal, or Kill

The Epic Battle Behind the Making of "Gone with the Wind"

David Vincent Kimel

A deliciously detailed exploration of the big personalities, gargantuan operation, and enormous success of the most popular movie of its time, *Gone With The Wind*.

Summary

It starts, of course, with a book—and the runaway success of a historical novel that made the casting of Scarlett O’Hara edge-of-the-seat international news. Every generation, new fans fall in love with the movie, and more recently debate the presentation of the Civil War and the characterization of the roles played by its black actors.

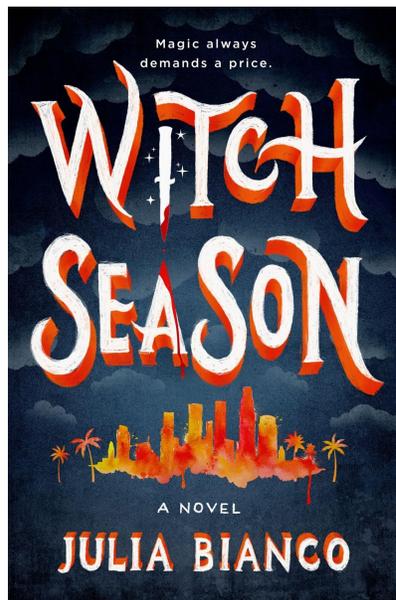
David Vincent Kimel, a classics scholar and Yale PhD candidate, bought a rare original shooting script of the movie at auction in 2023; this “rainbow script”, contains every draft and *all* changes to the movie as it evolved from final draft to what we all saw up on the screen. This is a treasure trove of lost scenes and revisions that exposed the fights over how to portray slavery.

But there’s so much more here: Selznick’s drug use; Vivien Leigh’s suicide attempt; accusations of rape against Clark Gable; what Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Oscar for her performance as Mammy, really wanted; homophobic and anti-Semitic comments by both marquee directors and the movie’s top star. There’s even a walk-on by Martin Luther King, Jr.

LIE, CHEAT, STEAL, OR KILL is an exhilarating narrative history that enriches what we know about an American classic and also exposes a complex creative commercial enterprise where artistry, politics and social upheaval converged.

Contributor Bio

DAVID VINCENT KIMEL is the coach of the Yale debate team (ranked first the world all six years he’s been coach) and himself was ranked top debater in the country in 2005. He co-founded the World’s Scholar’s Cup, the largest international student quiz bowl competition, and was a debate consultant for the Clinton campaign in 2016. He’s a PhD candidate in history at Yale and graduated in Classics from Harvard. Kimel’s writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and more.



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Wt

Witch Season

A Novel

Julia Bianco

Exhilarating, dangerous, and seductive, Witch Season is an action-packed and fiercely romantic contemporary fantasy from debut author and screenwriter Julia Bianco.

Summary

That is the price of magic—not just the blood, but the pain to bring it out.

Katherine Barnes is an enforcer, charged with upholding the rules of the notorious Los Angeles-based Aestas coven. It's her job to maintain order and bring unsettled witches—people who aren't aware they have magic until it explodes out of them in a catastrophic burst—into the coven's fold. As a former unsettled witch, Katherine owes her life to Sylvia Page, coven leader and silver-haired rebel who founded Aestas years ago.

When Silas Khatri, heir to Noctis, the most powerful coven in the world, arrives to take Aestas to task for some of their more *unconventional* practices, Katherine's dislike for him reaches blistering levels. She hates his money, his good looks, his coven's dangerous attitude towards unsettled witches. She can absolutely overlook that he sets her off in more ways than one.

But a powerful threat is about to rise. Stronger than any one coven. More insidious than the decades-long power struggle that exists in the hidden witch world. One that will pull Katherine and Silas together despite their differences. And one that will lead to an all-out war.

Contributor Bio

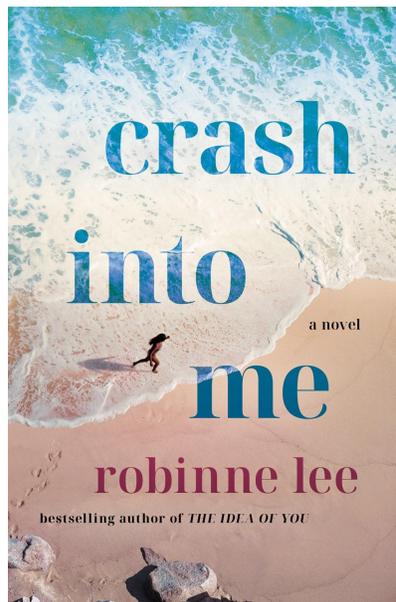
JULIA BIANCO lives in Los Angeles with her fiancé and their cats, S'more and Rigatoni. She works in the entertainment industry and enjoys baking, reality television, and playing with her cats' ears. *Witch Season* is her debut novel.

Quotes

"Action-packed, unapologetically violent, and somehow culminating, amidst the carnage, with a gorgeous message of hope." -Brigitte Knightley, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Irresistible Urge to Fall For Your Enemy*

"An absolutely stellar debut... The characters were masterfully evoked, the magic system so well-constructed that it felt real, and the story itself quite simply riveting." -*USA Today* bestselling author, India Holton

"Tightly woven and full of intrigue, this witchy urban fantasy is brimming with magic, betrayal, and an undercurrent of desire that hums through the chaos." -Logan Karlie, author of *Dream by the Shadows*



Crash Into Me

A Novel

Robinne Lee

Sizzling, seductive fiction that's both recognizable and heartbreaking, from the bestselling author of *The Idea of You*

Summary

When Cecilia Chen gets into a fender bender, she's shocked to find she recognizes the swan-necked beauty she's mildly injured. And it's this chance encounter with the glamorous Anouk Ferrand that will change Cecilia's life.

Sexy and emotionally involving, *Crash Into Me's* core is a familiar and much-discussed challenge for many women: how to express creativity, how to be frankly sexual and emotionally vibrant in and out of a marriage, how to be a constant friend, a good mother. In Cecilia, Lee creates a conflicted character dealing with a complex set of circumstances: a photographer with a Jamaican background from the East Coast married to a Frenchman whose career has catapulted beyond hers.

Readers will immediately recognize the dynamics of Cecilia's complicated marriage and her worries about raising her bi-racial children in a place she's not sure she wants to be, a Westside Los Angeles that's a platform for privilege and power. What will keep readers feverishly turning the pages is what stuns Cecilia herself: the intensity of her explosive physical and emotional entanglement with Anouk.

Did what happened between them two decades ago begin something Cecilia won't be able to stop?

Contributor Bio

ROBINNE LEE is an actor, writer and producer. A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, Lee lives in Paris with her husband and two children. Her first novel, *The Idea of You*, was made into an Amazon Studios movie starring Anne Hathaway and Nicholas Galitzine.

Quotes

Praise for *The Idea of You*

"This slayed me. Incredible." - Taylor Jenkins Reid

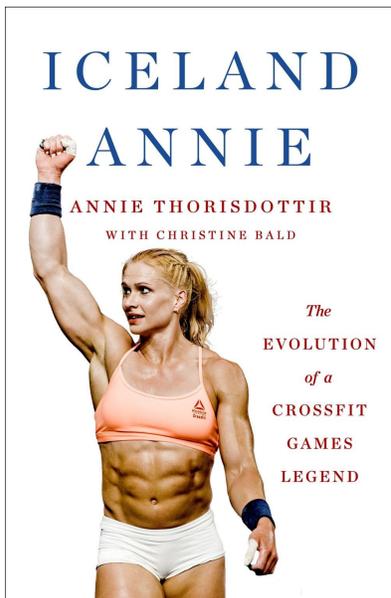
"Captures what fame looks like, and how it affects us all...a fun, juicy love story!"
—Elizabeth Banks

"Not only is this romance a fun ride, but it also draws on themes of celebrity and sexism that will give you something to think about after you're done." —Bustle

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Iceland Annie

The Evolution of a CrossFit Games Legend

Annie Thorisdottir, Christine Bald

An inspiring memoir by CrossFit legend Annie Thorisdottir, the first woman to win the CrossFit Games twice.

Summary

In 2011, Annie Thorisdottir earned the title "Fittest Woman on Earth" after winning the CrossFit Games in only her third year as a competitor. In 2012, she did it again, becoming the first woman to ever win the Games twice, solidifying herself amongst the CrossFit greats.

Iceland Annie is the story of how she got there, and everything that happened after. From bursting onto the CrossFit scene at the 2009 Games and famously hitting her first-ever muscle-up mid-competition, to becoming a two-time champion and mentor to athletes like Katrin Davidsdottir, to surviving the traumatic birth of her daughter and the battle with postpartum depression—culminating in a stunning 2021 comeback, when she placed third at the Games less than a year after giving birth.

Now, for the first time ever, Annie shares the intimate details of her career, delving into her mental resilience, determination, and the struggles and triumphs she's faced as a top-level competitor over three separate decades.

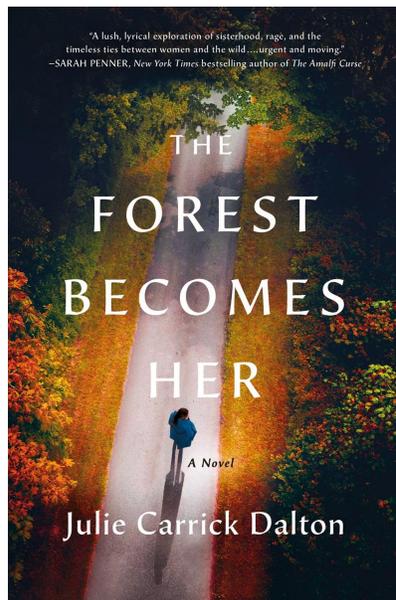
Contributor Bio

ANNIE THORISDOTTIR—or Iceland Annie, as she's sometimes called—is a two-time CrossFit Games champion (2011-2012) and ten times CrossFit Games veteran. Of those appearances, she's stood on the podium six times—she took second in 2010 and 2014, third in 2017 and 2021 less than a year after giving birth, in addition to her title-winning finishes. A former gymnast, Thorisdottir owns CrossFit Reykjavik in Iceland.

Quotes

"An honest, substantive, insightful memoir about the pursuit of greatness—not just the wins, but the physical and mental battles that evolved Annie as both an athlete and a person. Her story is a powerful reminder that even the strongest among us are still human." —Tia Clair Toomey, 8x CrossFit Games Champion and author of *How I Became the Fittest Woman on Earth*

"Annie didn't just win; she redefined what winning means... This book is the Annie I know: fierce, generous, and living proof that the impossible is within reach." —Katrin Davidsdottir, 2x Fittest Woman on Earth and author of *Dottir*



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Wt

The Forest Becomes Her

A Novel

Julie Carrick Dalton

The perfect choice for your next book club: three women from different generations navigate the complexities of family, the impacts of our choices, and our deep connections to the natural world.

Summary

In historic, bucolic Concord, Massachusetts, a centuries-old forest has been removed to make way for a new, eco-friendly housing development. The locals are upset by the destruction, but out-of-towners like Hazel Stoddard are flocking to put down roots in their new guilt-free dream homes.

Soon a tragedy leaves Hazel unmoored in her new life, and she begins to feel the pull of the absent forest. Hazel is not alone—her neighbors, real estate agent Stella Flint and teenage environmentalist Polly Bauer, each have their own traumas and their own relationship to the land. The three women are drawn together to save the last remaining oak tree, or they risk losing themselves to lingering shadows that only they can see.

In *The Forest Becomes Her*, Julie Carrick Dalton brings hope and reverence to this lush celebration of multigenerational female relationships, the ever-evolving female form, humanity's connection to our changing world, and the mysteries that still exist in nature.

Contributor Bio

As a journalist, **JULIE CARRICK DALTON** has published more than a thousand articles in *The Boston Globe*, *BusinessWeek*, and other publications. She is a frequent speaker on the topic of writing fiction in the age of climate crisis and is a member of the teaching faculty at Drexel University's MFA Program. When she isn't reading, writing, or teaching, you can probably find her skiing, swimming, kayaking, working in her garden, or trying to keep track of her four children and two dogs.

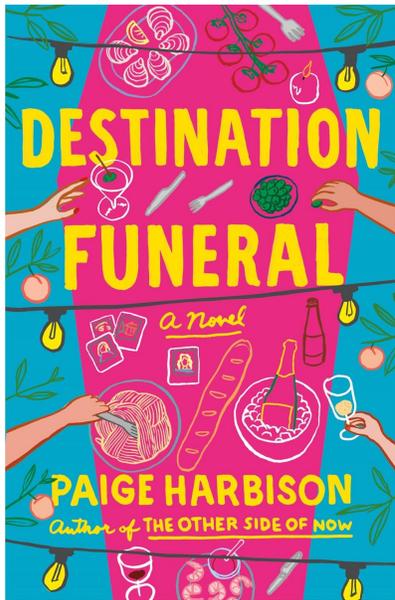
Quotes

"A lush, lyrical exploration of sisterhood, rage, and the sacred ties between women and the wild." —**Sarah Penner, NYT bestselling author of *The Amalfi Curse***

"Dalton has conjured a landscape that remembers everything — and gives us characters we won't soon forget." —**Lily Brooks-Dalton, national bestselling author of *The Light Pirate***

"An unforgettable read." —**Kirstin Chen, NYT bestselling author of *Counterfeit***

"A primal scream, and an exhilarating and unforgettable novel." —**Katie Gutierrez, author of GMA Book Club pick *More Than You'll Ever Know***



Destination Funeral

A Novel

Paige Harbison

The *Big Chill* meets *Groundhog Day* when four estranged friends reunite for a funeral—only to find themselves reliving the same storm-lashed Saturday again and again.

Summary

When Babe—the complicated, magnetic matriarch of their teenage summers—dies, four estranged friends return to sleepy Mercy Island, a storm-swept stretch of coastal Georgia, summoned by the reading of her will.

Didion expects nothing more than an awkward visit with her sister and, maybe, a sundrenched funeral attended by beer-soaked locals. Instead, she arrives at the timeworn pink house to find the friends she never thought she'd see again—along with the tensions, attractions, and unfinished business that once bound them together and blew them apart.

What should be a brief weekend of small talk quickly unravels. Because the next morning, it's Saturday again.

And again.

And again.

Trapped in a time loop with no end and no instructions, they're forced to confront the betrayals, breakups, and buried truths that shattered them ten years ago. Something on the island isn't ready to let them go—and if they can't find a way to fix things, it may never let them leave.

Contributor Bio

PAIGE HARBISON is the author of three YA novels, the first of which was published in 2011 when she was just nineteen. More recently, she's worked on several celebrity projects as a ghostwriter. *The Other Side of Now* is her adult debut. A woman of many talents, she's also a visual artist, records music with her brother (band name: Thalo), hosts and produces the podcast *Nameless Best Friends*, and has a solid social media presence. She lives in L.A. with her partner, Richie, and their dog Tarot.

Quotes

Praise for *The Other Side of Now*

"Moving, clever, funny, compelling, and warm as an Irish sweater." —**Laurie Frankel, bestselling author of *Family Family***

"An engaging, winsome debut." —**Elissa Sussman, bestselling author of *Funny You Should Ask***

"Paige Harbison's characters will win your heart, break it, then put it back together again." —**Laura Hankin, author of *One Star Romance***

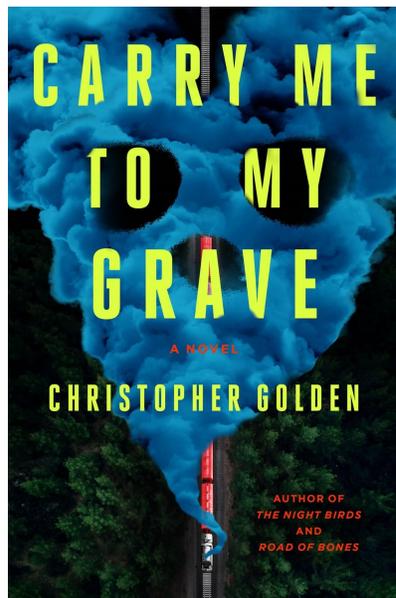
"Perfect for fans of Taylor Jenkins Reid's *Maybe in Another Life*." —**Booklist**

"One of the funniest writers working today." —**Bustle**

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Wt

Carry Me to My Grave

A Novel

Christopher Golden

From *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Golden comes a high concept horror novel about a man trying to protect his dead mother's body from the evil that is hunting them.

Summary

Maggie Wise will take your eyes.

When Malcolm was growing up, the local kids made up that chant about his mother, claiming she was a witch. He and his siblings did their best to ignore it. Now, Maggie is dying, and those same siblings have left Malcolm and his sister-in-law Violet to hold a vigil at her bedside.

But they're not as alone as they think they are. A dark figure waits and watches from beneath the willow tree across the street. Hundreds of miles away, an ancient evil stirs in its burrow under a farmer's cornfield. Across the country, other buried things begin to dream in anticipation of Maggie's demise. On her deathbed, the old woman elicits a promise from Malcolm, her youngest child?when she dies, he and Violet must return her body to her birthplace in Shediak, Maine.

From the moment she takes her last breath, before her remains are even loaded aboard the baggage car of the Imperial Limited, there are forces trying to stop Malcolm from fulfilling that promise. Violence erupts on the train, evil preys on its passengers, and once the sun goes down, those long-buried things are coming to make Maggie Wise pay for her past. God help anyone who stands in their way.

Contributor Bio

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN is the *New York Times* bestselling and Bram Stoker award-winning author of *Ararat*, *Snowblind*, *Dead Ringers*, and *Of Saints and Shadows*, among many other novels. He is the co-creator of two cult favorite comic book series, *Baltimore* and *Joe Golem: Occult Detective*. He is also the editor of such anthologies as *Seize the Night*, *The New Dead*, and *Dark Cities*, and the co-host of the popular podcast "Three Guys with Beards." He lives in Massachusetts.

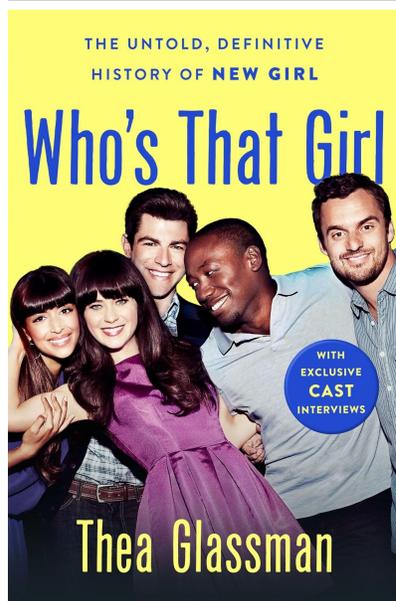
Quotes

Praise for *The Night Birds*:

"Golden showcases his gift for eerie scene setting in this outstanding horror novel... A tense, atmospheric thriller." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Combines the thrill of survival horror, the wince of body horror, and the spine-tingling chill of the occult. Golden's skill is on full display here." —*Library Journal*, starred review

"Drenched with unease from the opening pages... Heartbreakingly beautiful, filled with action, evil, shape-shifting witches, superior world building, and visceral terror." —*Booklist*, starred review



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Performing Arts / Television
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Who's That Girl

The Untold, Definitive History of New Girl

Thea Glassman

In this definitive history of *New Girl*, entertainment reporter Thea Glassman lifts the curtain on one of the most beloved comedies of the 2010s, going inside the writers' room and onto the set with exclusive interviews from the show's creator, cast, writers, directors and crew.

Summary

In 2020, two years after the series ended, *New Girl* officially became one of the most streamed shows on Netflix, accomplishing what many shows strive for and so few are able to do: It had become a certified comfort rewatch, which fans welcomed into their homes during the good times, bad times, mundane moments, and everything in between.

New Girl took the classic hangout show format and spun it in a far weirder, more subversive direction while still hitting that familiar Friends-esque sweet spot—this time for millennials and Gen Z. Sitcom rules were broken, the pursuit for the perfect joke was relentless, and the cast was invited to help mold their characters, working alongside the writers to bring unexpected comedy gems to life.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with creator Liz Meriwether and stars Zooey Deschanel, Jake Johnson, Max Greenfield, Lamorne Morris, Hannah Simone, and more, *Who's That Girl* finally tells the full story of *New Girl*, from its early roots on a New York street to its lasting streaming legacy in our hearts and homes today.

A love letter to the comfort show of all comfort shows and filled with brand-new hilarious and heartwarming behind-the-scenes stories, Thea Glassman's *Who's That Girl* is a must-have for every *New Girl* fan. Get ready to step inside Apartment 4D, the best downtown Los Angeles loft there is or ever was. Feeling sticks, damp towels, and way-too-big pranks await.

Contributor Bio

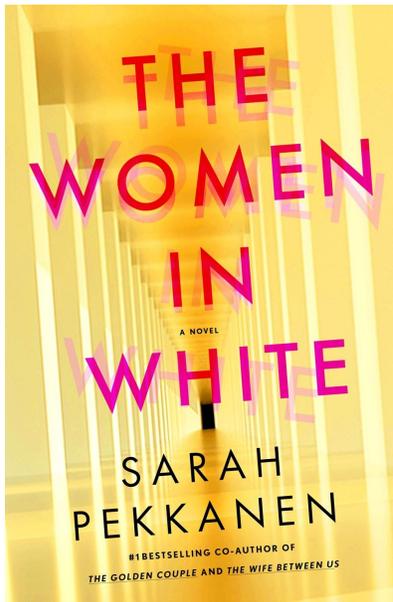
THEA GLASSMAN is an entertainment journalist whose writing has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Architectural Digest* and *Rolling Stone*. Her first book, *Freaks, Gleeks and Dawson's Creek*, an Amazon pick for Best Nonfiction, went behind-the-scenes of seven groundbreaking teen television shows. She lives in New York City with her fiancé and their dog Riggins, of *Friday Night Lights* fame.

Quotes

Praise for Thea Glassman:

"*Freaks, Gleeks & Dawson's Creek* is as sharp, clever and full of heart as the seven iconic TV shows Thea Glassman so eloquently writes about within these pages." **?Tom Kapinos, Showrunner and Executive Producer of *Dawson's Creek***

"As addicting as an afternoon bingeing your favorite TV show... Insightful, smart, delightful. A must-read for all pop culture devotees." **?Dana Schwartz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Anatomy: A Love Story***



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The Women in White

A Novel

Sarah Pekkanen

The newest thriller from #1 Bestselling Author Sarah Pekkanen combines a decades-old mystery with spine-tingling paranormal elements in this twisty novel of the seen and unseen.

Summary

When 80-year-old Betty Sadler hires Riley Bell, a down-on-her-luck divorcee, as a live-in aide, it seems like a lifeline - even if Betty's house is a strange time capsule from the 1960s. Betty has one final wish: she wants Riley to find her three best friends from college. But when Riley begins to investigate, she discovers the first woman murdered her husband, then took her own life, the day Betty abruptly left the college. The second friend was institutionalized for schizophrenia hours later. And the third disappeared forever. Riley soon learns Betty and her friends were part of classified university experiments and that Betty is haunted by what transpired inside the Institute's Room 6. But whatever was swirling around these four exceptional young women is rising from its long-dormant state. Someone is trying to resurrect the old experiments, like a copy-cat serial killer. And Riley's efforts to get answers about the lost girls of the Room 6 is putting her on a collision course with the person who wants to finish the job.

Contributor Bio

SARAH PEKKANEN is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of five novels of suspense including *The Golden Couple* and the solo author of the thriller *Gone Tonight*. She is also the solo author of eight internationally bestselling women's fiction books, and an award-winning former journalist. She serves as U.S. Ambassador for RRSIA India and works hands-on in India to rescue street dogs. She lives just outside of Washington, D.C., with her family.

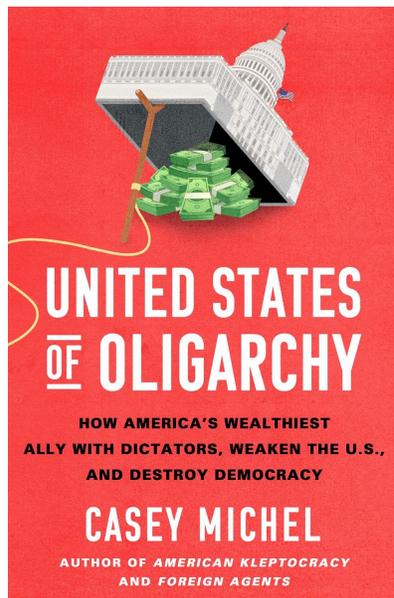
Quotes

Praise for *The Locked Ward*:

"One of my favorite thriller writers, Sarah Pekkanen is an automatic buy for me. I love her twisty, propulsive thrillers and *THE LOCKED WARD* is no exception." —Laura Dave, NYT bestselling author of *The Last Thing He Told Me*

"Instantly immersive, involving, insightful and scary—this is psychological suspense at its very best." —Lee Child

"An evocative and twisty thriller, and I loved every breathless minute of it." —Jennifer Hillier, *USA Today* bestselling author of *THINGS WE DO IN THE DARK* and *LITTLE SECRETS*



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United States of Oligarchy

How America's Wealthiest Ally with Dictators, Weaken the U.S., and Destroy Democracy

Casey Michel

An staggering examination of how America's wealthiest infiltrated the government and allied with dictators, transforming the U.S. from democracy to oligarchy.

Summary

From the Rockefellers to the Vanderbilts, the world's richest families have for centuries built their fortunes on American soil, serving as capitalistic success stories who grew their wealth among free markets and democratic protections. Now, that balance has shifted. Rather than the moguls and magnates of previous generations, the wealthiest individuals of the 21st century are oligarchs unto themselves – and owe much of their wealth to the most anti-democratic forces around the world.

Many of these oligarchs have flung open the doors of influence to dictators from Russia and China, while others have opened new streams of financing and infiltration to regimes in places like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Others have transformed entire industries into playthings for dictatorships in secret. All the while, the Trump administration appears to be unabashedly selling American policy to the highest bidders across the globe, from Qatar to Vietnam and far beyond.

In *United States of Oligarchy*, Casey Michel illuminates a story decades in the making, from the earliest efforts to combat American oligarchs, to the new crop of oligarchs dominating American democracy and making the world safe for dictatorship—all for their own benefit.

The oligarchs have risen and are attempting to reign. The only question remaining is whether or not it's too late to stop them.

Contributor Bio

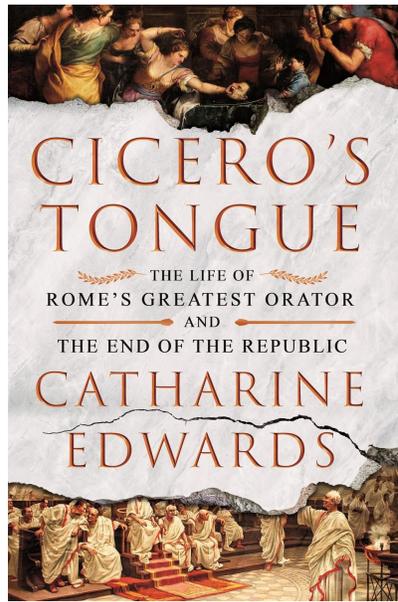
CASEY MICHEL is an author, journalist, and director of the Combating Kleptocracy Program with the Human Rights Foundation. He is the author of *American Kleptocracy* and *Foreign Agents*. His writing on offshoring, foreign lobbying, authoritarianism, and illicit wealth has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The Washington Post*, among other outlets.

Quotes

"An eye-opening depiction of an industry that has largely defied efforts to keep it in check." —*The Economist* on *Foreign Agents*

"[A] masterful exposé.... A hard-hitting takedown of a cynical industry." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred) on *Foreign Agents*

"Timely... A provocative and alarming account of the political cesspool known as foreign lobbying." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred) on *Foreign Agents*



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Cicero's Tongue

The Life of Rome's Greatest Orator and the End of the Republic

Catharine Edwards

A new biography of Cicero, one of the most influential and fascinating figures in classical history.

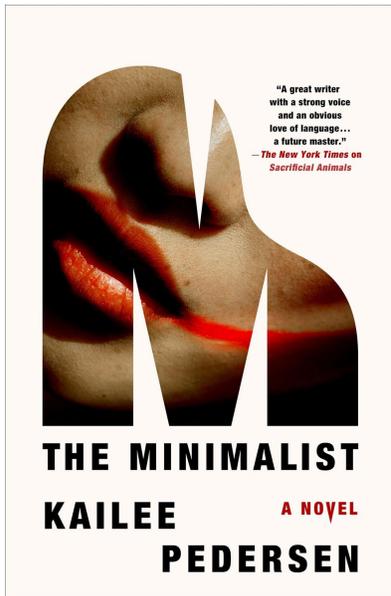
Summary

When the great Roman orator Cicero was murdered in the Autumn of 43 BCE, his tongue was seen as such a powerful weapon against his enemies that Fulvia, the wife of Marc Antony, had it cut out of his severed head and pierced with pins. Marcus Tuilius Cicero, however, was more than a brilliant orator. He was born on January 3 106 BCE and was assassinated on December 7, 43 BCE. The arc of his life almost perfectly mirrors the decline and fall of the Roman Republic. His actions and reactions to the rising tyranny of the world around him continue to fascinate and inspire today. The story of Cicero's life is full of peaks and troughs, uncertainty and scandal.

In this gripping new biography, Catharine Edwards breathes new life into one of the ancient world's most notable figures and offers a fresh take on the end of the Roman Republic. Edwards examines Cicero's life for what it can tell us about a turbulent society in which longstanding tensions and inequalities were exacerbated by the wealth of empire, and ambitious generals battled to seize control and remake Rome. As democratic institutions are radically subverted by strongmen and their lackeys in our own world, Catherine Edwards' *Cicero's Tongue* is a thrilling mirror reflecting both the distant past and the tumult of history playing out again all around us.

Contributor Bio

CATHARINE EDWARDS is a professor of Classics and Ancient History at Birkbeck, University of London where she has been since 2006, and is one of the world's foremost experts on Roman History. A Fellow of the British Academy, she has published extensively on Roman cultural history, including academic books. She translated Suetonius' *Lives of the Caesars* for Oxford World's Classics, is a regular contributor for the BBC, and writes regularly for the *Times Literary Supplement*.



The Minimalist

Kailee Pedersen

A gruesome and unsettling psychological drama that paints a darkly lucid portrait of a classical composer's descent into madness.

Summary

As the last and greatest student of famed minimalist composer Ryder Wakefield, Mia Voss's rise to prominence in the insular world of classical music has long been assured. When Ryder dies unexpectedly, she inherits everything—including the unfinished manuscript of his final composition, the mysterious Death Fugue: Music for Orchestra.

Haunted by memories of her tragic romance with Ryder's late son, Oliver—like Mia, an Asian American adoptee—Mia leaves her girlfriend behind and returns to Ryder's home to finish his last work. There, Mia is forced to confront her complex relationship with Ryder, who hid his Jewish and gay identities to become one of the most important twentieth-century American composers; her lingering guilt over Oliver's suicide; and her own musical ambition as the manuscript begins to exert a disturbing, mesmerizing hold over her.

Drawn from the author's own experiences as an adoptee and classical musician, *The Minimalist* is a harrowing examination of loss, torment, mental illness, and artistic self-destruction.

Contributor Bio

KAILEE PEDERSEN writes haunted, unsettling speculative fiction. She graduated with a B.A. in Classics from Columbia University, specializing in ancient Greek. Kailee was adopted from Nanning in 1996 and grew up in Nebraska, where her family owns a farm. Her writing on LGBTQ+ and Asian American themes was awarded an Artist Fellowship by the Nebraska Arts Council. When not scribbling down her next book, you can catch her singing opera, playing video games, or working as a software engineer in NYC.

Quotes

"An unremittingly gloomy and oppressive story that will haunt you for days... Pedersen is a great writer with a strong voice and an obvious love of language... [*Sacrificial Animals*] establishes Pedersen as a future master of speculative fiction." —*The New York Times*

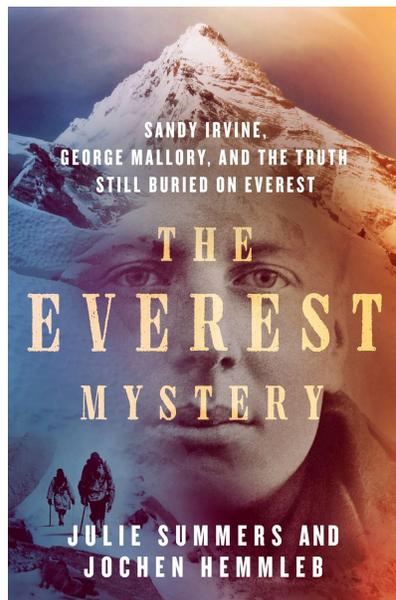
"Unease infused into every detail...the tightly coiled tension will eventually explode; when it does, [readers] will be left gasping in awe. Pedersen's debut skillfully balances character and atmosphere." —*Library Journal*, starred review

"Literary horror that isn't afraid to show its teeth. Pedersen is sure to win fans." —*Publishers Weekly*

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The Everest Mystery

Sandy Irvine, George Mallory, and the Truth Still Buried on Everest

Julie Summers, Jochen Hemmleb

The unsolved mysteries of George Mallory, Sandy Irvine, and their legendary 1924 Everest expedition

Summary

There is no mystery more compelling in the history of mountaineering than the disappearance of George Mallory and Sandy Irvine close to the summit of Mount Everest on June 8, 1924. Over 100 years after they were last seen 'going strong for the top,' the question of exactly what happened to them on that fateful day has not been answered.

George Mallory's frozen remains were discovered in 1999. But in September 2024, a climber found an old boot lying out in the open on the Central Rongbuk Glacier on Mount Everest, several miles from where Mallory lay. The boot contained a foot, and a sock bearing a nametape spelled out in red: A.C. IRVINE.

Did Mallory and Irvine reach the summit—becoming the first to do so—or did they perish while ascending? What happened to the camera that Irvine may have carried, which would have documented their climb? *The Everest Mystery* explores the life of Sandy Irvine, his relationship with George Mallory, and the many theories about what happened to them so close to the summit of Mount Everest. Above all, it restores Sandy Irvine to his place in the great mystery of Everest 1924.

Contributor Bio

Julie Summers is a biographer, historian and author of 14 works of non-fiction. She is Sandy Irvine's great-niece and the family spokesperson. In 2000 she published her biography, *Fearless on Everest: The Quest for Sandy Irvine*. She lives in Oxford.

Jochen Hemmleb is the author of 15 books about mountaineering history, including the award-winning *Ghosts of Everest*. Jochen was co-instigator and member of the "Mallory & Irvine Research Expedition" in 1999, which found the body of George Mallory, and took part in three more search expeditions for Sandy Irvine. He lives in Lana, northern Italy.

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